

PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED PARKING ON POST  
OFFICE PROPERTY

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MARCH 1 (legislative day, JANUARY 29), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. JOHNSTON of South Carolina, from the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany S. 618]

The Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, to whom was referred the bill (S. 618) to prohibit the parking of vehicles upon any property owned by the United States for postal purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment, and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

## STATEMENT

In some instances the handling of mail in and out of post-office buildings has been impeded by unauthorized parking of motor vehicles on Government-owned property used for postal purposes. It is the purpose of S. 618 to put the public on notice that vehicles cannot be left on such property without the consent of the postmaster or duly authorized postal employee.

The Post Office Department has not experienced serious difficulty in controlling such violations on the local level as to leased property but there has been difficulty in securing local police cooperation as to Government-owned property, since the State and municipal courts have no jurisdiction if the parking is a Federal offense.

This bill places the public on notice that such unauthorized parking is a violation of this act, punishable in the United States district court with a fine not in excess of \$25. The bill requires that before the penalty of the act shall be invoked signs must be placed on the property calling attention to the fact that it is Government property and that unauthorized parking on the same is in violation of a Federal statute. There is a similar law in the District of Columbia (56 Stat. 93; D. C. Code, 1940, Sup. VI, title 40, secs. 810 and 811).

The bill does not empower the postmaster or other postal officials to act as law-enforcement officers but authorizes and empowers the

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Postmaster General to promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of the act.

Attached herewith is a letter from the Postmaster General requesting such legislation and giving reasons why such is needed. The Bureau of the Budget interposes no objection to this legislation.

### AMENDMENT

The purpose of the amendment is to clearly restrict the penalty imposed in this act to Government owned property used for postal purposes and which is under the custody and control of the Postmaster General.

The amendment also makes it mandatory that the property so used shall be clearly marked by signs erected on the property calling attention to fact that unauthorized parking on said property is in violation of this act.

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,  
Washington 25, D. C., January 10, 1950.

HON. ALBEN W. BARKLEY,  
*President of the United States Senate.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am submitting herewith, for consideration by the Congress, proposed legislation to prohibit the parking of vehicles upon any property owned by the United States for postal purposes.

In the development of plans for Federal post-office buildings, it has been the practice of this Department to provide driveways of sufficient area for use in the maneuvering and temporary parking of mail-handling vehicles only. Parking of privately owned vehicles of postal employees or other occupants of the Federal building is permitted only when there is no interference with the operation of mail-handling vehicles. However, in a number of communities where buildings were erected prior to the adoption of this policy, there is an excess of driveway, and the postmasters have been harassed and a difficult situation has developed, as residents of the local communities, claiming the right as taxpayers and as citizens, demand and use such parking space for their private business. Such space has been used not only by those attending night movies, but also for all-night parking, and to such an extent that the driveways have been so cluttered in the early morning hours that mail-handling vehicles cannot have access to the loading platforms. "No Parking" signs are without effect, and have been carried away, and even chain barriers at the driveway entrances have been removed and destroyed.

In some instances the local police have been cooperative, but in other instances the city authorities have instructed the officers to refuse aid on the ground that they have no jurisdiction over Federal property.

The act of January 15, 1942 (56 Stat. 5), entitled "An act to prohibit parking of vehicles upon public or private property in the District of Columbia without the consent of the owner of such property", made it unlawful to park vehicles on Government property in the District of Columbia without permission. This law authorized the impounding of such vehicles and prescribed a penalty of not more than \$25 for violations of the law. However, there is no similar law of general applicability outside the District of Columbia.

It is imperative that postal trucks have free ingress and egress to postal property so that the mails will not be delayed. The parking of private vehicles on Government property used for postal purposes interferes with the movement of postal trucks. It is believed that this situation would be remedied through the enactment of the measure submitted herewith.

This Department has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to the presentation of this draft bill to the Congress for its consideration.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. DONALDSON,  
*Postmaster General.*